



Employment Subgroup Meeting Minutes February 11, 2009

Items Relevant to Other Workgroups

None

Attendees

- Cathy for Galyn Barnum
- Susan Hornfeld
- Michele Walker
- Cindy Pushman
- Camille Price
- Diane Bonds
- James Bunton
- Jeff Kaplow (PPA)
- David McConnell (PPA)

Discussion Items

Review Action Plan Actions and Outcomes

Action 1.1: Review employment resources and strategies for providing employment services

- Galyn and Michele have had a number of conversations, and the team is still researching and gathering information.
 - Talking to state agencies and local partners
 - Meeting with Western Michigan University
 - Contacting the Upjohn Institute
- The issue is not getting the information; the issue is deciding what information is most useful.
 - Will need to work on narrowing down the information to what is most relevant and possibly narrowing down by population as well.
 - ◆ Thought about going to directly to providers working directly with homeless populations.
 - Michigan Association of Rehabilitation Organizations
 - CoCs
 - MPRI
- Action 1.1 outcomes
 - In the medium-term we might want to look at limiting this action to a few initiatives that show promise.
 - There should be a concise summary of what the state agencies are able to provide and what the boundaries of service are.

Action 1.2: Expand and strengthen provider networks

- Plan to go out and interview, talking to providers and seeing what strategies are working and what challenges people are running into.
 - Workforce Development Board meetings might be a good place to go to increase our networking.
 - Would like someone from the west side of the state to help with this.

- ◆ Susan would like a list of group members so that she can reach out. Jeff will send subgroup's contact information to all the members.
- ◆ Galyn may be able to help. She will get back to Susan on this.
- ◆ Camille may be able to help recruit someone to help from the Detroit area.
- Will try to get as much information as possible in the next 6 months.
- Might be able to do something by May if there is help.
- Action 1.2 outcomes
 - The timeframe will become clearer as more information is gathered.
 - There might need to be some cross-training so that regions and agencies will know what everyone else is doing.

Action 1.3: Develop strategies for outreach on workforce development resources

- Those working on this action still have not had the chance to connect.
- Camille would like to know if the Workforce Development Board touches on homeless issues.
- Possibilities for outreach include 2-1-1 On-The-Go, Goodwill, Project Homeless Connect, agencies that belong to HAND, and the Coalition on Temporary Shelters.
- Looking at the state's green-collar training—creating crews of people and training them in the skills needed to do weatherization, etc. This might be able to give people an edge and help them compete when the state rolls out additional green programs.
 - There is a team with MSHDA which is looking at doing something very similar; getting them skills that make them employable. Also getting people involved in demolition projects.
 - Bringing in a number of Detroit Agencies who can provide training for this project.
- Goodwill offers transitional training experience; paid training for people.
- DHS is developing a contract to hire navigators to help fill out forms and get to services.

Action 4.2: Develop strategies for overcoming transportation barriers

- At the last meeting we had talked about several of the transportation barriers and made a list.
- Would like for more people to join this group.
- Group discussion about transportation issues.
 - One strategy is a car sharing program, Smart Cars, in which you join the group and have access to a vehicle to get to and from work.
 - There has been a lot of work attempted to overcome transportation barriers, including employers paying for transportation for the workforce and ride sharing.
 - There had been work done on a proposal last year to get funds for individuals who needed just a little money for their vehicles (licensing, registration, used vehicles).
 - Most of the homeless population is in urban areas and there might not be jobs there.
 - ◆ Getting people bus passes isn't going to solve the problem if the jobs aren't there.
- Measuring outcomes will be difficult.

New Assignments

- Cindy will e-mail Jeff with a decision on which task she would like to join.
- James Bunton has experience on transportation issues and has staff all over Southeast Michigan, and can help where needed. James will send Susan some contacts for people in that area. He also will be able to provide some help with task 4.2, time permitting.

Campaign E-Newsletter

- Jeff will send a link to the group that will allow members to sign up for the monthly E-Newsletter.
 - Members should think about what aspects of the workgroups actions should be included.
 - ◆ Is there a particular issue which should be highlighted for the next issue?
 - ◆ How do all the agencies feel about ways to help homeless people find employment or to find transportation?
 - Members suggested taking action categories and inviting readers to share information with us.

Tasks Assigned

- All task teams should try to meet at least once before next meeting and begin work on their actions.

Next Meeting

- The next subgroup meeting is Wednesday, March 11, at 2:00 p.m.